



Post Shorts

Recycling schedule



The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Dec. 12 is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

EOC changes phone numbers

The Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground Emergency Operations Center is now under the direct control of the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment/Fire Department.

The new telephone numbers for the EOC are 410-278-3182 and 410-278-3183.

The old 410-278-4500, 410-278-5225, and 410-278-5226 will remain with the S3 Operations Office assigned to the Directorate of Installation Operations.

Choir to perform cantata off post

The Aberdeen Area Post Chapel Choir will present the annual Christmas Cantata "Come and Adore Him" on Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. In order to ensure that everyone who wants to attend is able, the performance will be held at Grove Presbyterian Church, 50 E. Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen. Light refreshments will follow.

For more information or if you need a ride, call the chapel at 410-278-4333.

Help for holiday blues

The Army Substance Abuse Program and Dr. Mary Taylor-Ennis will present "Holiday Blues or Is It Depression?" on Dec. 13, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at the Civilian Personnel Training Area, building 5442, and from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Edgewood Conference Center Auditorium, building E-4810. Military personnel, civilian employees and all family members are invited to attend.

For more information, call Derrick Copper, 410-436-3477.

AFTB back at APG

Army Family Team Building is a program that stresses military mission readiness and family readiness. The mission is to educate and train all of America's Army. AFTB shares knowledge, skills

See SHORTS, page 2

CWF tourists visit Radio City, ground zero

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

With visions of FAO Schwartz, Rockefeller Center and Rockettes dancing in their heads, about 90 people took advantage of the Civilian Welfare Fund-sponsored bus trip to New York City during the Thanksgiving weekend. The fee included round trip transportation and tickets to the annual Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall.

Two buses departed Aberdeen Proving Ground on Nov. 24 on the daylong excursion that was organized months ago by Jacqueline McKeever and Angela Keithly, CWF coordinators, who plan several excursions like this throughout the year.

McKeever and Keithly briefed the passengers as the buses sped up I-95.

"We drop people off at five sites along Fifth Avenue and they are free to shop and take in the sights until show time," Keithly said to the passengers on bus one.

"You can go wherever you want once the bus drops us in Manhattan, but try to return your bags to the bus prior to the show. Extra bags are not allowed inside due to security reasons," she added noting that the bus would be in place one hour prior to the show and immediately after.

With a host of tourist attractions, shops and restaurants to

See CWF, page 13



Photos by YVONNE JOHNSON

A crowd pauses behind a police barricade to gaze at the remnants of the South Tower wall and part of building five near the entrance to ground zero in Manhattan. The Civilian Welfare Fund sponsored a trip to New York during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Revised NCO-ER regulation scheduled for January

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

A revised regulation on the Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report is scheduled to be fielded Jan. 2.

One of the changes will lead to less time required for complete-the-record reports. Two optional reports are also being added to the regulation: the senior rater option report and 60-day short tour option report.

NCOs in the zone of consideration for promotion, who have been in their current assignment at least 90 days, will be able to get a complete-the-record report for promotion-board members to see. Instead of having to wait six months to submit a complete-the-record report, as required under the current regulation, the allotted time will be cut in half.

The complete-the-record report is only one of the changes that will show up in the new regulation, but it will be one of the most pertinent for NCOs, said Sgt. Maj. Anthony Everette, the chief and policy maker for the Enlisted Evaluations Branch.

"The complete-the-record report is a significant change primarily because the promotion-board meetings are such a prominent event in all of our lives," Everette said.

Complete-the-record reports are only authorized when an NCO has changed jobs or has been re-assigned, and performance in that slot has not been rated. The six-month provision was a concern for NCOs because they felt that they were at a disadvantage when the board met, Everette said.

The change, however, will not affect the upcoming master sergeant selection board in

February, Everette said. Those reports should have a thru date of Nov. 30, and will fall under the guidance of the previous regulation.

Previously, a change of rater could generate a new report, but not a change of senior rater. A Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report with just rater input is valid, and is still looked at by promotion board members, but it doesn't allow the individual to have the benefit of the senior rater comments, Everette said.

On the NCO-ER in Part V, Overall Performance and Potential, the senior rater has to mark a numeral from one to five, with one being the highest, to rate the NCO's overall performance and overall potential for promotion.

Having senior rater comments on the NCOE-ER are extremely important for some NCOs. Sgt. 1st Class David Cleveland, an operations sergeant at Fort Monroe, Va., said that the senior rater option report is, for him, the most important change to the regulation.

"A lot of times, due to rotations, we're not afforded the opportunity to get senior rater comments, but it's important that board members see what our potential is ... from a neutral observer," Cleveland said.

The other optional report to be added to the revised regulation is the 60-day short tour option. It will be granted in instances when NCOs are deployed overseas for 14 months or less, and have more than 59 days but less than 90 days under their current rater. The rater may initiate a 60-day short tour option report.

"This new report will allow NCOs to receive reports highlighting their contributions

See NCO-ER, page 5

Forensic team identifies most Pentagon victims

Christopher C. Kelly
Army News Service

What some experts have called "the most comprehensive forensic investigation in U.S. history" ended Nov. 16 with the identification of 184 of the 189 who died in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

A multidisciplinary team of more than 50 forensic specialists, scientists, and support personnel from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, together with experts from the Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii, played a major role in Operation Noble Eagle investigations, officials said.

Many of the casualties were badly burned and difficult to identify, an official said. Of the 189 killed, 125 worked at the Pentagon and 64 were passengers on American Airlines Flight 77. Only one of those who died made it to the hospital. The rest were killed on site, and for some, only pieces of tissue could be found.

AFIP's team of forensic pathologists, odontologists, a forensic anthropologist, DNA experts, investigators, and support personnel worked for over two weeks in the mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, Del.,

and for weeks at the DNA lab in Rockville, Md., to identify the victims of the attack.

"Our staff represented every branch of the service," said AFIP Director Navy Capt. Glenn N. Wagner. "We also received tremendous support from the doctors, nurses, and technicians stationed at Dover who participated in the investigation."

The investigation mobilized AFIP assets in many ways. In the hours following the crash Sept. 11, the acting armed forces medical examiner, Air Force Col. AbuBakr Marzouk, worked with FBI and local Virginia law enforcement officials to create a plan for recovering and identifying the victims.

At the same time, personnel from the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner positioned and staged equipment to begin operations at Dover. Air Force Maj. Bruce Ensign served as AFIP's team leader at the site.

"We immediately called in regional medical examiners from as far away as San Diego to participate," Ensign said. A total of 12 forensic pathologists, assisted by two AFIP

See VICTIMS, page 6

Young patriots reach out to help other children



Photo by JACQUE MILLER

Pictured from left to right are Maj. David Wilson, 520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory, Sierra Rios, a kindergarten student dressed as Lady Liberty, and Marine Cpl. Sammy Real, Marine Detachment. Students planted a tree and collected money for Afghan children in the days following the Sept. 11 tragedy.

Sheila Little
APG News

Those of us who have learned from children should not be surprised to find out that, if given the opportunity, children can come up with their own ways of finding healing comfort following tragedy.

The students and staff at Royce-Williams Elementary School dressed in patriotic costumes and colors, collected money for Afghan children and planted a tree as a living memorial to those who died in the terrorist action upon the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania, earlier this fall.

Maryland Senator Nancy Jacobs traveled to the school Nov. 21 to thank the children for their patriotic sacrifice.

In the days following Sept. 11, many children as well as adults struggled with ideas as to what to do to help those directly affected by tragedy. Although many adults in the

Aberdeen Proving Ground community coped by giving blood, volunteering at organizations experienced in helping with disasters, and making monetary contributions, others who interact with children day after day also listened to their young charges. The teachers at Royce-Williams Elementary School, along with other schools throughout the county, encouraged students to share their feelings and discovered that even the youngest students felt the need to help.

Assistant Principal Donna Miller said, "The children were very concerned in the days following the terrorism. They saw adults doing things to help out, and they wanted to do something too."

Recognizing that children were feeling the after-effects of terrorism, President Bush addressed the nation and suggested that children might feel better if they could reach out and help other children in the world. He suggested American

See PATRIOTS page 14

Outlook Tip #2

Undeleting a Deleted Message



Open the Deleted Items folder, select Tools / Recover Deleted Items. You will see a screen that has all your "deleted" deleted items. There are three buttons available.

The first button is "Select All" and will select all the messages. The second button is "Restore Selected Items" and will restore those messages that have been selected to the Deleted Items folder. The third button will "Purge" the selected messages. Any messages purged from the server cannot be recovered. Do not use this button.

Once an item is recovered, it can be moved to any other folder.

See Outlook Tip # 2 located in the Outlook Tips Public Folder for more details.

Select Public Folders, then All Public Folders, then APG, then Outlook Information and finally select Outlook Tips.

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and behaviors designed to prepare Army families to cope successfully with today's military. Diana Jackson, the AFTB program manager, will schedule courses that focus on adapting to military life, accepting challenges, managing change and developing life skills.

Dec. 16 is Army Family Team Building Day. Take time on that day to remember those who lost loved ones on Sept. 11. The AFTB celebration will be included in Army Community Services' New Year Open House. For information on classes, briefings and volunteer opportunities, contact Diane Jackson, 410-278-7474.

Kirk medical records move temporarily

The Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic Medical Records Section will be updating their filing system to a new Medical Records Tracking System through Jan. 2. During this time medical records will be temporarily located in Room CO3. Please follow the signs to the new location. For more information, contact Nancy O'Rourke at 410-278-1924 or Capt. Jennifer Gerald at 410-278-1723.

Santa suits for rent

Santa Claus suits are available for rent at the Outdoor Recreation Equipment Resource Center, building 2407, for \$10 per day. Suits include jacket, wide black belt, pants, boot covers, white gloves, beard, wig and hat. The center is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 7 a.m. to noon and closed on Wednesday.

For more information or to rent a suit, call 410-278-4124.

Santa is coming to APG

Army Community Service is sponsoring a holiday party Monday, Dec. 17, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center. Bring your family for an evening of fun with Santa Claus. There will be free photographs, face painting, music, games, prizes and food.

Reservations must be received at ACS, 410-278-7474/7478, by Dec. 10.

EA Thrift Shop seeks bookkeeper

The Edgewood Area Thrift Shop is seeking an individual to fill the salaried position of bookkeeper. The position requires 40 hours per month plus one Saturday and includes an annual paid vacation. A month of volunteering/training is required. If interested, pick up an application at the Edgewood Area Thrift Shop, building E-1633 or call 410-676-4733, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or leave a message.

Closing date for submitting applications is Dec. 20.

USO-Metro kicks off Holiday Hotel Program

The USO of Metropolitan Washington will hold the Holiday Hotel Program Dec. 20 through Dec. 30. USO-Metro will join with Washington area hotels to provide complimentary hotel/motel room nights to visiting families of servicemembers who are unable to travel home for the holidays. The program is designed to help junior enlisted personnel, many of whom do not have enough leave time accrued to travel home. Many are essential personnel at their duty stations and cannot leave.

Eligibility is limited to enlisted personnel in grades E1 to E6. No more than four family members may share a hotel room. All recipients are responsible for payment of incidentals such as telephone, parking, room service and more.

Interested applicants may apply directly through their senior enlisted advisor, command sergeant major, master chief petty officer or chief master sergeant. The application deadline is Dec. 8. For more information, call Dale Jovero or Dawn Ruth, 703-696-2552/3279.

CPOC Web site updated

The new Telegraph is now available on the Civilian Personnel Operations Center homepage <http://cpolrhp.army.mil/ner/telegraph/tele1001/tellyframe.htm>.

EA library hours change

The Edgewood Area library is **only** open on Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Re-Nu-It centers announce winter hours

Winter hours for the Aberdeen Re Nu It Center are 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The Edgewood center is open the same hours on Wednesday and Friday.

Register now for HCC's spring credit classes

Registration is currently underway for Spring 2002 credit

courses at Harford Community College's Aberdeen Proving Ground Center, building 3146 Raritan Avenue, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and alternate Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information, call 410-272-2338 or 410-278-0516.


Students may also register at the HCC Student Center Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Spring classes begin on Wednesday, Jan. 23. Students who register through Dec. 17 will be billed, with payment due on Jan. 10. For more information about registering for spring credit courses at HCC, call the Registration and Records Office at 410-836-4222 or 410-879-8920, ext. 222.

MCSC shares cooking secrets

The APG Military and Civilian Spouses' Club has put together a community cookbook with more than 280 recipes. This collection has been tried and tasted by service- members all over the world. A special section features recipes from active duty personnel in every branch of the military.

The cookbook will be available for purchase on payday weekends at the PX and commissary and at the Aberdeen Area Thrift Shop. It sells for \$8 and all proceeds will benefit the local community. You can also purchase the cookbook by calling Angie Salamy at 410-272-6712. She will deliver to your office on post. These make great teacher gifts or a great treat to take home for the holidays.

Pollution Prevention



To save water wash vegetables in a pan of water instead of under the faucet. Then use the pan for precleaning dishes after the meal.

APG Pollution Prevention Program, Environmentally Preferable Product and Affirmative Procurement Policy

Apple pies available for purchase

Purchase delicious, homemade apple pies made by members of the Aberdeen Area Military and Civilian Spouses' Club while supplies last. The pies are available for purchase for \$5 each. All proceeds benefit the welfare and scholarship funds. You may arrange pick-up by calling Angie Salamy at 410-272-6712 or stopping by the Aberdeen Area Thrift Shop Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of every month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

La Gregg's offers special through Dec. 15

La Gregg's food operation, located in building 4311 on Aberdeen Proving Ground is offering a Thanksgiving special through Dec. 15. Purchase any combination meal and receive 10 percent off.

La Gregg's features sandwiches and items from the grill to include hamburgers, French fries and hotdogs. La Gregg's also carries a variety of beverages including specialty coffee blends and cappuccino. La Gregg's is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for lunch; Monday through Thursday, 5 to 8 p.m. for dinner; and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. La Gregg's is open to the public.

TRICARE recipients urged to save receipts

TRICARE officials remind all beneficiaries that some of the programs called for in the National Defense Authorization Act went into effect on Oct. 1, but some programs are scheduled to be phased in over time. For this reason, beneficiaries are advised to save all receipts and other information related to claims for all services and benefits received since Oct. 30, 2000, until notification has been received that all programs have been put into practice. One such program is the reduction of the catastrophic cap from \$7,500 to \$3,000 and coverage for school-required physicals for dependents under age 11. Keep in mind that physicals required to play sports are not a covered benefit. Having documentation available will ease the reimbursement process from the health services contractor, Sierra Military Health Services, Inc.

Information on the latest TRICARE benefits and when they take effect can be found on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil. Also, you can contact Sierra Military Health Services at your nearest TRICARE Service Center or talk with a Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator at a military treatment facility. *(Editor's note: Reprinted with permission from The Pulse, a TRICARE Northeast publication.)*

Update on FEHB 2001 Open Season

The 2001 Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season runs through Dec. 10. Brochures and comparison charts may be viewed/downloaded from the Office of Personnel Management Web site www.opm.gov/insure-health. All new changes will be effective Jan. 13.

Due to recent events and restricted access to Aberdeen Proving Ground, the annual health fairs have been canceled this year.

Red Cross offers health and safety courses

Pre-registration is currently being accepted for Central Maryland Red Cross CPR, first aid, and other safety courses held at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Red Cross Office, building 2477. Courses are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participants must register and pre-pay in advance for the following courses:

Adult CPR (four hours). Adult CPR deals with victims eight years of age or older. This course covers all cardiac and breathing emergency skills, including how to perform rescue breathing, clear an obstructed airway and perform one rescuer CPR. Cost of the course is \$33. Course will be held Saturday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Standard First Aid (Six and one-half hours). Learn rescue breathing, how to clear an obstructed airway, and how to perform one-rescuer CPR on victims eight years of age or older. Course also includes basic first aid skills such as how to treat life-threatening bleeding, burns, musculoskeletal injuries, shock and sudden illness. Cost of the course is \$37. Course will be held Saturday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For information, call 410-764-4609, 1-800-787-8002 or visit Web site www.redcross-cmd.org.

Technology convention to focus on Homeland Security

The 2002 Federal Convention on Emerging Technologies will take place Jan. 7 to 9 at the Riviera Hotel and Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nev.

The convention, which focuses on homeland security, is open to all federal employees and contractors sponsored by the federal government. The convention will include the 2002 Federal IT Pavilion, the newest addition to the largest trade show in North America, International CBS. Seminars include Homeland Security, Information Assurance, Cyber Threats/Terrorism, XML, Metadata, Collaboration Tools, Next Generation Search Engines, GSM and Global Wireless Communications and more.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Ruth A. David, president and chief executive officer of ANSER. For more information about the convention or to register, call NCSI at 888-603-8899 or visit www.federalevents.com.

TSP open season approaches

The Thrift Savings Plan Open Season lasts until Jan. 31. During the open enrollment period employees may elect to enroll in TSP or change their current TSP deduction. TSP Open Season Update Pamphlets will be distributed to agency administrative offices upon receipt in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

Employees are now required to contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian, or ABC-C, at 1-877-276-9287 or www.abc.army.mil to enroll in TSP or change the amount of their contribution. Employees must also contact the TSP Office at 1-504-255-8777 or www.tsp.gov if they wish to change their fund allocation.

Personal Identification Numbers are required for both ABC-C and TSP. Employees who wish to change the way their current balance is invested must request a TSP Interfund Transfer. Interfund transfers can be made by calling the TSP office, using the Web site, or completing a TSP-50.

For more information, contact your servicing personnel assistant, Aberdeen Proving Ground CPAC.

White House ornaments on sale at ITR

The Information, Ticketing and Registration Office has White House ornaments on sale for \$16.25 each. If you buy four, the fifth one is \$14.25.

For more information, call ITR at 410-278-4011.

Post closing announcement info

Employees of Aberdeen Proving Ground concerned about whether or not to report to work should call 410-278-7669 (SNOW). Television channels 2, 11, 13 and 45, as well as radio stations WAMD, WXCX, WBAL, WIYY, WPOC, WDEL, WSTW, WSBA, WARM and WROZ will also carry this information.

When in doubt, contact your supervisor.

APG News

The *APG News*, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *APG News* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM, APG, MD 21005-5005, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 13,500.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source.

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For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 324, Second Floor, AMSSB-GIM, APG, MD 21005-5005; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; fax it to 410-278-2570; or e-mail it to editor@usag.apg.army.mil. Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

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PET OF THE WEEK



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

A cute and cuddly kitten would be a welcome surprise under anyone's tree. This 10-week old male is already gift wrapped with the distinctive markings of an American Shorthair. The Veterinary Treatment Facility has several kittens, cats and dogs available for adoption. You do not have to be active-duty military to adopt a pet. For more information, call the VTF at 410-278-4604.

CA Update

Employees ask questions about CA Study

The CA Hotline, 410-278-7414, is available 24 hours a day to record employees’ questions or concerns about the Commercial Activities Study. Employees are also invited to send e-mails to CA.Hotline@usag.apg.army.mil. In addition, “CA” is a choice on the first page of the APG Web site, **www.apg.army.mil**.

Question: *We’ve been told that management is putting together the performance work statement, or PWS...with a very limited timeline. Why doesn’t the work force have the opportunity to input? Why are we on such an accelerated schedule?*

Answer: The CA Core Team is responsible for the PWS. This team is comprised of management analysts from the Directorate of Resource Management and functional experts from the former directorates of DPW and DOL, which is now DIO. The core team is also gathering information from functional experts in each of the major work areas under study. AOC is providing assistance in the development of the PWS.

Since we are not starting from scratch, but revising work statements and workload data, it will not take us as much time to complete the PWS this time. Tentative timelines have been given by higher headquarters. However, we will attempt to take whatever time is necessary to do the job right.

Question: *Why is it that we’re not allowed to include many things in the PWS that we currently do and will be required to do in the future? For example, renovations to certain buildings, etc. We’ve been told that these don’t get included in the work counts.*

Answer: Supervisors should be ensuring that all required work and related work counts are included in the PWS. Any work that is currently required and will be required in the future should be included. Decisions are pending on some work that is currently contracted.

Question: *We are required by regulation and structure to do many things in the housing arena, however, we’ve not been resourced to perform many of these functions. Because there are no recent work counts to support the function, we cannot include many of these functions. Since the contractor can incorporate all known requirements in his bid, how do the government employees compete on a level playing field?*

Answer: The fiscal crisis in the family housing area that occurred this year, which precluded much work from being done, will not have a negative impact on the government side during the bid comparison process. The solicitation will provide an estimate of work. Both the government and the contractors will base their bids on this same workload estimate, which creates a level playing field.

Question: *Why can’t we grandfather out the work-force based on attrition? Since so many functions are now being performed by contractors, it would take a very short period of time and would be more cost effective to simply replace departing personnel with contractors. This would also yield a much smoother and seamless transition.*

Answer: Contracting out more than 10 employees requires the full-blown CA process. Gradual conversion was not an option we were provided, and the Department of Defense is mandating the use of the A-76 process throughout the military. Also, contractors may not be cheaper than the government workforce. The government process allows APG Garrison the opportunity to keep this work in-house.

Question: *What is the true timeline for the CA process? When is the PWS due, when is the bid scheduled to go out, etc.?*

Answer: The request for proposal, or RFP, which is basically the PWS plus some administrative and technical documents, is due to go out on the street on Feb. 1, 2002. At that point, we begin a process of answering industry questions and refining the PWS, if needed, and the government’s bid is finalized and reviewed by the Army Audit Agency. Once this is accomplished and bids are received, the evaluation process begins. During this process, the Source Selection Authority reviews industry bids to

select the best value bid. Once that has been done, that bid is compared to the government’s bid in the cost comparison process, and an initial decision is announced. We anticipate that this will occur in December 2002.

Question: *What will the options be for federal employees if the bid is lost? The employees would like to have this information now so that they are better prepared.*

Answer: If the government loses the bid, federal employees will have right of first refusal for vacant jobs created as a result of the award with the contractor, for which the employee is deemed qualified by the contractor. In the event of a reduction in force, or RIF, employees will be offered VERA/VSIP to the fullest extent possible. RIF mechanics, and attendant outplacement programs, such as Priority Placement Programs, will be utilized.

Question: *We in the front-line workforce do not feel like we are getting a fair shake. We need some serious professional help. Although, we’re experts in our fields, we don’t have the expertise to know if the proposed PWS is adequately representing our interests. There is no expertise in the CA process at our level. We feel that no one is assisting us who really has a full understanding of the process. It’s like the blind leading the blind. The former members of the CA team who were dedicated to the IO package are not available to assist with this study. It’s as if we are starting at ground zero with no information and no guidance. We’ve not even been told who won the contract to assist with the CA process.*

Answer: Regarding the composition of the CA team, very few members of the CA Core Team are actually new to the process. Additionally, we are fortunate to be able to rely on our former CA manager for expertise and guidance as needed. AOC brings invaluable insight and assistance to add to the in-house effort. AOC adds expertise and capabilities in developing a competitive government bid. Their assistance provides an invaluable opportunity for us because, in addition to expertise in the CA process, they can help formulate the government bid with their in-depth knowledge of the way private industry puts their bids together. Col. Mark has taken a personal interest in this process, and has been present at each of the meetings we have had to review progress and discuss strategy.

Question: *We’ve been kept totally in the dark. During the last study, regular articles appeared in the APG News, a hotline was available, the website was updated, we had regular workforce briefs, and we knew who to turn to.*

Answer: In August, we established a CA Hotline number, 410-278-7414, which is advertised on the web page. We also established a CA Hotline email address, also advertised on the web page. Questions received on the telephone hotline, and the answers have appeared in the APG News. The website is in the process of being updated. Prior to Oct. 12, we were constrained by regulation from announcing the re-start of the CA process, or engaging in any in-depth discussion, until the Commercial Activities Proposed Action Summary (CPAS) was announced to Congress.

Question: *It seems that the only people who are secure in their jobs are mid-level and senior- level management. Who’s considered government in nature? How was the determination made?*

Answer: Government in nature, or GIN, positions are strictly defined in AR 5-20, The Commercial Activities Program. These are services that are so intimately related to the public interest that only government personnel can perform the work. These include activities which require the exercise of discretionary authority to set or change regulatory policies, or to make value judgements in the act of governing. The positions in the current CPAS that are identified as GIN were analyzed in detail to determine how many hours within each position contained GIN functions. In some cases, the entire position was determined to be GIN, and in others, only part. Our interest is to group GIN hours to create the minimum essential number of positions in the Residual Efficient Organization, or REO.

Question: *Who is putting together our management study?*

Answer: The CA Core Team (again, with the functional experts who are on the team and in the field) will put together the management study, with the support of the AOC consultant team. By regulation, the consultants who are involved in the management study will not be involved with the PWS process.

Question: *Right now the Garrison’s main priority is dealing with force protection issues as a result of our current world situation. It’s understandable and appropriate. However, because the leadership doesn’t have the time or resources to become intimately involved in the CA process, it would seem that our leadership should be fighting very hard to defer this process to a later date. Has this issue been addressed forcefully through the highest levels of Army leadership?*

Answer: We have raised this issue through our chain of command to the highest levels of leadership, and we have been directed to continue the A-76 process. We recognize the challenges that the increased force protection stature places on all of us. However, we have been directed to continue the CA process.

See CA, page 3

Entrepreneur returns dog tags to Vietnam vets

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Rob Stiff doesn’t think of himself as a hero, but to the many veterans he and his friend Jim Gain have helped, that’s exactly what he is.

Stiff and Gain, after a trip to South East Asia earlier this year, purchased hundreds of American GI dog tags they saw being sold on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City. They have since set up a Web site and are methodically searching for relatives and survivors and returning the tags to their rightful owners.

Stiff, a 27-year old Florida businessman who manufactures magic tricks for magicians, and his partner have appeared on the Today Show and other talk shows in an effort to advertise their personal cause.

The project, which has blossomed into a major endeavor, came about as the result of a sightseeing tour.

“We were in South East Asia, Hong Kong and China on business and decided to do some sightseeing while we were there,” Stiff said.

In a back alley off the beaten path, they came upon vendors selling war paraphernalia like boots, hats and uniforms. They noticed a pile of military dog tags and saw that they had

American names on them. Sickened by the sight, they left, but after returning home could not stop thinking about the tags.

“We thought maybe we should go back and take a better look,” Stiff said. “We thought they might not be real but it was worth the trip to go back and make sure.”

They returned to Ho Chi Minh City, found the same vendor, and after verifying the authenticity of the tags, spent about \$800 to purchase 620 of them.

Stiff said that getting the tags through immigration was a slight ordeal.

“At first, they were unsure what to do. They figured something was wrong with us having them but they weren’t sure what to do about it,” Stiff said.

To ease the tension, Stiff showed them some of his products and tricks. It worked. The immigration officers relaxed and, finally deciding there was no harm in their possessing so many dog tags, let them through.

Then came the hard part, Stiff said.

“We weren’t sure how to go about locating the original owners or their survivors. We figured the Department of Veterans Affairs was the best place to start.”

Through old wartime records, archives, and the Internet, they began to match names to last known addresses and relations.

They returned their first set of tags in July to the mother of a Marine who was killed in Vietnam. Ruth Decker, the mother of Lance Cpl. Allan George Decker, who was killed in action in 1968, received his dog tags at his Orlando, Fla., gravesite on the 4th of July, her birthday.

“She was so overjoyed,” Stiff said. “She said that she had finally found peace after all these years.”

To date, they have returned 45 sets of tags, in person whenever they are able to.

One of their most memorable returns was to Larry Turner, an Army veteran living in Daytona Beach, Fla.

“We met his whole family. It was quite a celebration,” Stiff said adding that Turner cried and hugged him over and over again.

While they are unable to return all the tags in person, Stiff said the appreciation is still there.

“We’ve had former prisoners of war tell us that their tags were taken from them and they never saw them again or that they lost their tags when their helicopter was shot down,” he said. “Many relatives we contacted never realized the tags were missing. It



Photo courtesy FOUNDDOGTAGS.COM
From left, Larry Turner and Rob Stiff shake hands in the living room of Turner’s Orlando home just after Stiff returned Turner’s dog tags that were lost in Vietnam.

just never occurred to them to ask about them.”

With more than 14,000 hits on the site, requests for information are rolling in. Congressmen, senators and veterans groups are offering their assistance as well.

Stiff said that for a while he was unsure what motivated them to do what they did.

“I was never in the military. My dad was a Vietnam veteran but that’s really not why I did it,” he said. “I believe we were meant to find those dog tags where we did. The fact that it bothered us until we decided to do something about it, and that we were financially able to, makes me believe that.”

He said that the satisfaction they receive every time they find another owner makes it all worthwhile.

“For us, it’s an incredible opportunity to say thank you to the men and women who served for their sacrifices, he said. “We’re not the big story. They are. We’re meeting real heroes every day as well as the families who hung in there.”

For information about possibly retrieving dog tags that may have been left in Vietnam, for yourself or for a loved one, e-mail Rob Stiff at: info@founddogtags.com or log onto the Web site: www.founddogtags.com.

MRICD sponsors Toxicogenomics Conference

Cindy Kronman
APG News

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, or MRICD, sponsored a mission-associated Toxicogenomics Conference on Nov. 9.

Toxicogenomics is the

application of the recent advances in the molecular biological sciences involving DNA, RNA and protein to the problem of toxicology, and has its foundation within the fast-moving field of genome sequencing. Many areas of research on the toxicity and treatment of chemical warfare agent exposure can benefit from these biotechnology advances by defining which genes are affected during toxicity and which are important to successful treatment.

Scientists at MRICD realized the importance of this research area and started an effort in 1997 to vigorously apply the recent advances in gene expression technology to the problem of medical chemical defense. Other government laboratories, such as the U.S. Air Force Research Lab, U.S. Army Center of Environmental Health Research, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Disease, U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, have similar research interests.

The conference was planned so that scientists could discuss recent advances in technology, share data, and plan future directions for their research.

Col. James A. Romano Jr., commander, MRICD, opened

the conference with a challenge to its participants.

“My goals for the workshop,” said Romano, “are to determine the capability of this technology to lead to a leap ahead in our ability to understand and medically defeat chemical warfare agents, to determine how your technologies are currently being applied in chemical defense, to foster serious collaboration efforts among you and to enable the DoD labs to leverage our intellectual power with that of industry and academia.”

The conference, which was organized by Dr. John Schlager, one of MRICD’s principal investigators actively using this technology, and Lt. Col. Harry Slife, MRICD’s chief, Pharmacology Division, brought together scientists from 14 different laboratories, from industry and academia as well as from government. Through 16 platform talks and eight poster presentations, participants covered such topics as the application of new toxicogenomics technologies to the study of specific chemical warfare agents or CWA, use of alternative species and cultured cells as models, aspects of environmental monitoring by using toxicogenomics, and emerging methods of research and data analysis in the field. The two main chemical warfare agent research efforts

highlighted were sulfur mustard and low-dose agent exposure.

According to Slife, the conference met the commander’s expectations.

“Scientifically, I think we were brought up to date on what people are working on and at what point they are in their work,” said Slife. “The most valuable aspect of the conference, I believe, was the informal discussions that went on, promoting collaboration and information exchange. I think this aspect will go a long way to promote our program and move the entire effort forward.”

Romano agreed. As the conference concluded he observed, “It is evident that the ability to identify DNA changes, which is possible now because of an improved ability to identify genes, as well as advances in computer software development, are already being effectively used in medical chemical defense research to identify mechanisms and potential targets for therapy. Conventions for data analysis are being validated and adopted, which will allow for comparability of data among the participating labs. Finally, clearly the participants intensely share intellectual interests. This offers the potential for remarkable advances in medical protection against CWA.”



Weight Watchers at Work

Lunchtime Weight Watchers classes continue on post and new participants are welcome.

To learn more about the Weight Watchers at Work Program at APG, call 410-278-1151.

Humor can be the best medicine

Lt. Col. David D. Peterson
CHPPPM

Humor and laughter really are good for you. Researchers have found that humor and laughter actually strengthen the body against disease, reduce stress levels, lower blood pressure, increase energy levels, and help us bond with others.

Humor is used in both medical and nonmedical settings to heal ills, maintain sanity in an otherwise insane world and help deal with losses.

Research reveals that humor is beneficial not only to the individuals in a workplace but also to the organization itself. Some of the benefits of consistent humor in the workplace include:

- Less stress and anxiety
- Better perspective
- Improved resilience
- Positive mood
- Relief from pain
- Mental rejuvenation
- Increased creativity
- Higher productivity
- Team spirit
- Improved communication
- Improved morale
- Fewer sick days
- Increased immunity to disease and illness
- More effective management

Humor is an incredible tool, although it is often overlooked, especially during those times when you feel overwhelmed with work and responsibility. If you expect too much of yourself, feelings of guilt and inadequacy can besiege you when you think you have not quite measured up.

The ability to lighten up and be funny can help to alleviate the fatigue, irritability, feelings of helplessness, lack of productivity, and high level of stress that often accompany guilt.

One need only glance at the front page of any newspaper to see that the world is constantly bombarded with problems. While you may often feel powerless against world events and the events in your life, you can minimize the hold that these events have on you by finding humor within a given situation.

If you can laugh at your setbacks, even in the most trying moments, you will not feel sorry for yourself. Instead, you will feel uplifted, encouraged, and empowered.

An example of the power of humor can be found in one of the great leaders of our country, Abraham Lincoln. He lost his job, failed in business, was defeated for the legislature, lost his nomination for Congress, lost a bid for the Senate twice, and was defeated for nomination as Vice President of the United States. In spite of all these setbacks, his bouts of depression, and the death of three sons and a sweetheart, Lincoln continually summoned his sense of humor to gain the strength and the power to go on.

Humor is not meant to retrieve our losses but to help us deal with those losses.

Comedian Michael Pritchard equates laughter to changing a baby's diaper. "It doesn't change things permanently, but it

makes everything okay for a while," said Pritchard.

If you can find humor in even the most difficult times, your troubles will no longer seem as big or as important. Humor helps you to see beyond your immediate problems.

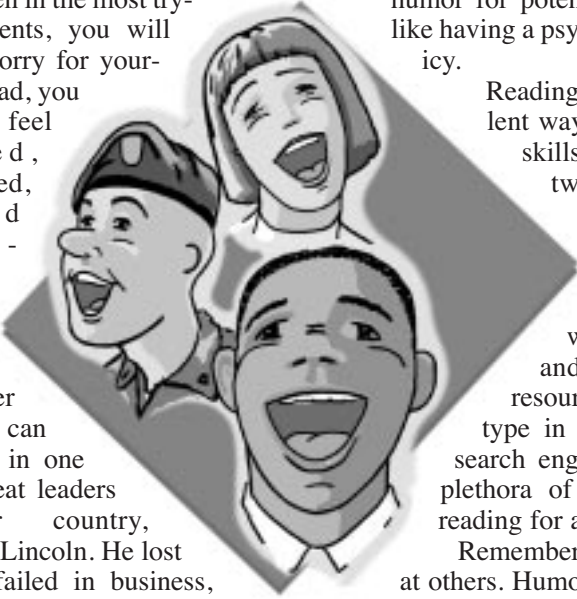
Plan to use humor in your approach to everyday situations. A bit of preplanned humor for potential upsets and losses is like having a psychological insurance policy.

Reading about humor is an excellent way to improve your humor skills. The Readers Digest has two sections devoted to humor -- "Laughter is the Best Medicine" and "Humor in Uniform." Both are rich with humorous anecdotes and stories. Another resource is the Internet. Just type in the word humor in any search engine and you will find a plethora of resources to keep you reading for a long time.

Remember to smile at yourself and at others. Humor and laughter are contagious, and humor can give you a sense of control in an otherwise powerless situation. Best of all, humor is a free tool for improving mental and physical health.

Take advantage of the power of humor for a new perspective both at home and at work. Use humor to decrease your stress, increase your energy, and maintain balance.

(Editor's note: Part of this article taken from Humor & Health Journal, Volume IX, Number 3, July/August/September 2000; reprinted with permission from Waleed A. Salameh, Ph.D., Publisher/Editor 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 409, San Diego, CA 92108.)



NCO-ER

From front page

and accomplishments while on short tours," Everette said. "Due to a high personnel turnover rate in short tour areas, many NCOs were not receiving reports in the past and they instead accumulated a lot of non-rated time."

In another change to NCO-ERs, the numerical Army physical fitness test score will no longer be required to justify excellence.

Raters may still include the APFT score on the NCO-ER, but it's not required, Everette said. Instead the rater may simply put, "Awarded Physical Fitness Badge," he said.

Under the new regulation, command sergeants major who work for three- or four-star generals will not have to be evaluated.

"Removing the requirement for command sergeants major to be evaluated was done to eliminate an administrative burden at that level," Everette

said. "The NCO-ER is rarely, if ever, a factor in the selection at that level. They are nominated and hand-picked for assignment."

The last revision to the NCO-ER under Army regulation 623-205 occurred in April of 1992. This revision rides the heel of the newly implemented NCO-ER, Department of the Army Form 2166-8 and the NCO Counseling and Checklist, DA Form 2166-8-1.

A major change to the NCO-ER is that the values under Part V of the form now reflect the seven Army core values. Both the new NCO-ER and Counseling Checklist are currently available online at <http://www.usapa.army.mil/forms/forms3.html>.

The regulation changes are also outlined on the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command Web site at <http://www-perscom.army.mil/> under MIL-PER messages.

"The revised regulation shows a continuous effort to support the advancement of the NCO corps," Cleveland said. He explained that the new regulation will allow "greater flexibility within the rating scheme."

Everette encourages all NCOs and raters to become

familiar with the changes so that they are applying the most current policies and procedures.

"Not following procedure could impact the soldier's career and livelihood," Everette said.

Art and Essay contest for Military Family Month

The Harford County Family YMCA along with Army Community Services is sponsoring an art contest in honor of Military Family Month. The art contest is open to children pre-kindergarten through sixth grade and an essay contest is open to children in the sixth through 12th grades. All participants will receive recognition. Prizes will be awarded to the top winners. Entry deadline is Dec. 13 and all entries will be displayed at the Harford Mall. For more information call the YMCA at 410-836-5075 or ACS at 410-278-7474.

"Message from America" will send holiday greetings

Courtesy of Military.com

In cooperation with the Department of Defense, "Message from America" will enable all Americans to videotape holiday greetings and expressions of support for the men and women of the armed forces. Through Dec. 31, Americans may visit any Circuit City Superstore nationwide to videotape 30-second messages. These messages will be sent to the USO and Armed Forces Network to be shared with military personnel at military installations around the world. In addition, CBS will

edit the public greetings into montages, which will appear as public service announcements during prime time, sports and other programs broadcast on CBS, UPN and MTV. Special invitations to record messages are being extended to fire and police departments across the country, military veterans, local American Red Cross chapters and Salvation Army branches, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and other youth organizations. As a special part of this program, family members of currently deployed mili-

tary personnel with military IDs will be able to record personal messages of up to five minutes in length for their loved ones. These messages will then be transferred to DVD and given to the family in mailing envelopes. Family members may mail them directly to their loved ones on active duty. Families with military IDs may record their messages at any Circuit City Superstore or at approximately 100 of the nation's military installations. For more information, visit <http://www.messagefromamerica.com>.

Victims

From front page
staff pathologists, headed the investigation team.

Also arriving at Dover during those early critical hours were two other key AFIP groups: forensic scientists from OAFME's Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory and oral pathologists from the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.

AFDIL scientists ensured that data systems and records were available to make DNA identifications, while the oral pathology group created a triage area to conduct positive dental identifications. Contacts were also made with family services personnel in each branch of the military to obtain ante-mortem information and reference material. Mortuary operations were fully underway by the evening of Sept. 13.

AFIP used a well-defined and tested system for conducting the identifications of the Pentagon victims. When remains arrived at the morgue, a scanning device searched for the presence of unexploded ordnance or metallic foreign bodies. A computerized tracking system then assigned numbers to each victim for efficient tracking.

FBI experts collected trace

evidence to search for chemicals from explosive devices and conducted fingerprint identifications. Forensic dentistry experts from the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology then performed dental charting and comparison with ante-mortem dental records. Full-body radiographs followed to document skeletal fractures and assist in the identification process, followed by autopsy inspection.

At autopsy, forensic pathologists determined the cause and manner of death, aided by a team of forensic anthropologists under the direction of Dr. William C. Rodriguez in determining the race, sex, and stature of victims when necessary. The team included four anthropologists from the Army's Central Identification Laboratory who deployed to Dover to assist the investigation.

A board-certified epidemiologist managed the tracking system for data collected during the autopsy process, and tissue samples were collected for DNA identification and further toxicology studies. Forensic photographers, essential to any forensic investigation, documented injuries and personal effects. Finally, mortuary specialists then embalmed, dressed, and casketed remains prior to release to next-of-kin.

For eight days a full complement of AFIP forensic specialists worked 12-hour shifts to complete the operation.

"This is the largest mass fatality we've dealt with in recent years," Ensign said. "We have modalities today that we didn't have before. Our investigation was much more technology-intensive."

Ensign noted that the entire team worked well together. "Because of the combined effort of all three services and the FBI, we were very pleased



Photo courtesy of www.dtic.mil/armylink/news/index_30.html
A forensic specialist works at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Rockville, Md.

with the speed of the identification process. Essential records and references were submitted to us in a timely way."

Logistical help from AFIP also played an important role. "We had tremendous logistical issues obtaining equipment, especially with additional demands in New York City and Somerset County, Pennsylvania," he said. "Fortunately our logistical support was terrific in helping us get material in."

The Dover mortuary sent specimens back to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Rockville, Md. There teams of forensic scientists, under the direction of Demris Lee, technical leader of the Nuclear DNA Section, took over the difficult chore of generating a DNA profile of the victims. Their work included not only the Pentagon crash victims, but the victims of the Somerset County, Pa., crash as well.

Every one of the organization's 102 DNA analysts, sample processors, logistics staff, and administrative personnel were involved — from collecting, tracking, analyzing DNA samples, and gathering and logging DNA reference mater-

ial to preparing DNA reports. For 18 days following the terrorist attacks, AFDIL employees worked on 12-hour shifts, seven days a week to meet the mission requirements.

The laboratory prepared to expand its operation to include the Somerset County crash almost immediately. Boyer, who is a nationally recognized expert in coordinating tissue collection services following aircraft disasters, traveled to Somerset County directly after the incident. There, he discussed AFDIL's potential role in identifying the United Airlines Flight 93 victims with federal and local officials, including the FBI and the National Transportation Safety Board.

The DNA identifications for the Flight 93 victims were sent from AFIP to the Somerset County Coroner's Office for release.

DoD released the positive identification of Pentagon victims. All but four of those who worked in the Pentagon were identified. AFIP identified all but one of the passengers on Flight 77.

(Editor's note: Christopher C. Kelly is the AFIP director of Public Affairs.)

CA

From page 3
Question: We've been told there are provisions in this CA study that make it impossible for the loser to contest the decision. Is this true? If so, why?

Answer: No, that is not

true. What is true is that we are trying to construct the RFP and resultant Most Efficient Organization, or MEO, to be as clear and valid as possible so that we can successfully meet any challenge to the government's final decision.

Question: Has the union been kept fully informed during this current CA initiative?

Answer: Col. Mark met with the Union President Tom Buettner and his board on July 30 to explain the process as we knew it to be then, which was a re-solicitation. The union was also present at the two consultant presentations. When the original study was cancelled in August we needed to submit a new CPAS and begin the study anew. By regulation, we were precluded from announcing the new study until it was announced to Congress on Oct. 12. The union president attends Garrison staff meetings, so he is in the loop about overall Garrison issues. Everyone associated with the CA process is intent on keeping the union involved.

Question: Will there be provisions in the contract where federal employees are given the right of first refusal? We've heard that this right isn't worth the paper it's printed on because the contractor really doesn't have to hire us nor does he have to keep us very long if he does.

Answer: The right of first refusal will be exercised. However, there are no guarantees of employment in this process. It is unlikely that any contractor would ignore the experience of readily available workers to hire outside persons. In addition, the contracting officer will monitor this process to assure that the contractor complies with the contract's right of first refusal provisions.

Opinion

Stressing the right holiday attitude



Sheila Little
APG News

For the past 26 years, I’ve been trying to celebrate the holidays in a state of blissful happiness with relatives. Everyone understands, everyone shares, and everyone is completely happy, no matter what.

With families located hither and yon, complicated schedules, limited time and numerous personalities to deal with, this state, one which I call ‘holiday nirvana,’ has been somewhat elusive at times. Although I’ve been close, I’ve never quite made it.

After all these years, I am nearly ready to admit that I may never get there.

To me the perfect holiday is one in which the spouses are there and happy, the children are there and happy, both sets of grandparents are there and happy, the hostess has not passed away from exhaustion, so she is there and happy, and no brothers, sisters, cousins or what-have-you are overlooked. That kind of holiday situation is nearly impossible to coordinate at any time of the year, let alone Christmas.

Every time I get together with family, someone is either missing, wishing they were somewhere else, feeling guilty about not being somewhere else, assigned the wrong food to bring, upset about the traffic, weather, or location of the gathering, given the wrong gift.....or just not happy.

I suppose that no gathering of more than one person can ever be absolutely perfect, but I strive for perfection year after year.

□ It is pretty hard for a crowd of relatives to get together and share the same cloud of bliss. For me, coordinating the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day thing is always a challenge. Jim and I have relatives that live just close enough to each other to make same-day visits possible, if not practical, and everyone is so understanding that I feel guilty no matter where I am.

As the kids get older and want to spend more time with their friends, or they get married and add another family to the mix, working the holidays gets trickier.

The wishes of new family members have to be incorporated and the family expands and goes further afield. Pretty soon, being the family social secretary, party planner, restaurateur, hotelier, decorator, buyer and referee leaves no time for holiday and family enjoyment.

Being a mom, I am fairly certain that trying for that perfect holiday is ingrained the moment you give birth, and you spend the rest of your days seeing to it that the kids love being home for the holidays and will do nearly everything possible to come home at that time of year for the rest of their lives. (If by chance they cannot come home, it helps if they

call and say they are making the best of it.)

Like other moms, I want to live the illusion.

Every year since the girls have been in college, I have tried to plan various holiday preparations and activities for the time when they come home, so it brings back fond memories, relieves boredom for them, and saves me from getting stressed out when I fall short of creating the perfect Martha Stuart setting.

Abraham Lincoln was a wise man to set Thanksgiving, a holiday devoted to thankfulness, so close to the Christmas season. It shifts the focus from please me to being thankful for what you’ve got.

Treat others, including your relatives, well all year long, and when it comes to the holidays they’ll try their best to spend time with those who obviously care about them. In the meantime, guess I’ll deliberate the etiquette question of mailing cards or sending holiday e-mail, go back and forth over whether a certain someone will be happier with one expensive gift or several smaller presents, (knowing her sister is getting the more numerous, smaller packages), bake thousands of calories worth of goodies everyone dutifully tries to avoid eating while others are watching, and discussing the tackiness of neighbors decorating their homes for Christmas before Thanksgiving is over. It is beginning to sound like I have already started my annual detour away from perfect bliss. So to get back on track to the right attitude for achieving holiday nirvana, pardon me while I close my eyes, breathe deeply and assume the lotus position until their new year. Hmmmmmmmmmm.....

Not just another CO2 – Islam 101 presented

Maria Saldana
DRM

The tragedies that occurred on Sept. 11 brought focus to a topic for a recent Consideration of Others, or CO2, training session Nov. 7 for members of the Directorate of Resource Management.

Looking back to the day Ameria was shaken, and the resulting attention on a part of the world and a people with beliefs that many Americans know little about, it was decided to present “Islam 101.”

This training was meant to accomplish two objectives — meeting the training responsibility, and realizing the true meaning of CO2, which in the words of Maj. Gen. Robert F. Foley is “those actions that indicate a sensitivity to and regard for the feelings and needs of others and awareness of the impact of one’s own behavior on them.”

In the aftermath of the attacks, Americans were told that terrorism violates the teaching of Islam. However, because many people don’t know what Islam really is or what the faith has in common with other more commonly-followed beliefs, the understanding was hampered.

With the assistance of Garrison Chaplain (Lt. Col) Kenneth Kolenbrander and Chaplain (Maj.) William Knight, Reverend Dr. Rick McNally, an authority in comparative religions, agreed to speak to the DRM on the basics of Islam.

The goal of the presentation was to demystify the stereotypes seizing many during this difficult period while at the same time, helping to strengthen Army values and remove fear.

As McNally began his presentation, it came as a surprise

See ISLAM 101, page 14

Community Notes

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 7
COUNTRY HOE DOWN**

The Harford County Country/Western Dance Association, a non-profit organization, sponsors country western dancing each Friday at the American Legion located on Parke Street in Aberdeen. Dancing is held 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. The instructor will announce lessons. Everyone is welcome.

Cost of admission is \$10 and includes draft beer, soda, chips and pretzels. For more information, call 410-272-8318.

ABERDEEN POLICE ASSOCIATION BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the Aberdeen Police Association will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, Aberdeen, 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available. Cost is \$10 per ticket; additional sets are available for \$5.

For tickets, call Judy Hinch, 410-272-7585, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 8
SPIRITUAL HOOPS AT HOYLE GYM**

Ten teams from the 143rd Ordnance Battalion, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools will compete in the first annual Spiritual Hoops competition at Hoyle Gym, 12:30 p.m. Physical, mental and spiritual fitness of all involved are sure to be enhanced by the day's activities. For more information, contact Chaplain (Capt.) Shawn McCammon, 410-436-8695.

CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

The New Hope Baptist Church Outreach Ministry, 116 Alice Ann Street, Bel Air, is sponsoring a Clothes Giveaway, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clothing and shoes for women, men and children will be available.

For more information, contact Harriet Hall at e-mail hhall383@cs.com or Pastor Mark R. Nolan, 410-838-9019.

HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR

The Prince of Peace Church, 2600 Willoughby Beach Road, Edgewood, will hold a holiday craft bazaar 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reserve a table now for \$20.

For more information, call 410-679-5850.

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 9
TREE LIGHTING IN THE EDGEWOOD AREA**

The tree lighting in the Edgewood Area will take place at the Edgewood Area Chapel, building E-4620, at 6 p.m.

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 11
ASMC ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Chesapeake Chapter, will host its annual holiday luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Giovanni's Restaurant, Edgewood. Cost of the luncheon is \$13 for members, \$14 for non-members.

For more information or if interested in attending, call Peggy Morrison, 410-278-1229, or Tina Allen, 410-436-7208.

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 12
EA-OWC COOKIE EXCHANGE**

The Edgewood Area Officers' Wives Club will meet at the

home of Denise Doesburg, 4670 Parrish Road, for a time of holiday sharing. Social time is 11:30 a.m., followed by a soup and salad lunch at noon. You do not have to exchange cookies to attend the luncheon.

Exchange participants are asked to bring a cookie container and five dozen cookies; one dozen on a plate to share, three dozen to exchange, and one dozen wrapped for the freezer, to be shared with those soldiers on gate duty over the holidays.

There is a \$5 charge to defray the cost of the luncheon. Make reservations no later than Dec. 7, to Linda Kuchar, 410-838-5265, or e-mail linku2000@aol.com.

**MONDAY
DECEMBER 17
SANTA IS COMING TO ACS**

Army Community Service is sponsoring a holiday party 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. All military and Department of Army civilians are invited to bring their family for an evening of fun with Santa Claus. There will be free photographs with Santa, face painting, music, games, prizes and food.

Reservations must be received at Army Community Service, 410-278-7474/7478, by Dec. 10.

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 21
CHRISTMAS COUNTRY HOE DOWN**

The Harford County Country/Western Dance Association, a non-profit organization, sponsors country western dancing each Friday at the American Legion located on Parke Street in Aberdeen. Dancing will be held 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. The instructor will announce lessons. Everyone is welcome. Cost of admission is \$10 and includes draft beer, soda, chips and pretzels. For more information, call 410-272-8318.

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 9 to 16
ABERDEEN LIONS PLANS VALENTINE CRUISE**

The Aberdeen Lions Club is sponsoring a seven-night Valentine cruise to the Western Caribbean in 2002. The public is invited to join the Lions on the newest Norwegian Cruise ship, Norwegian Sun, from Miami to Georgetown, Grand Caymen; Roatan, Bay Islands; Belize City, Belize; and Cozumel, Mexico. Snorkel on the longest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere, swim with dolphins or stingrays, or just relax on the ship.

The package includes complimentary round-trip transfers from Aberdeen to Baltimore-Washington International Airport, round-trip air from BWI to Miami, all meals and entertainment, all port charges and taxes, and a pre-cruise get-together. Call now and receive a \$50 shipboard credit per stateroom. Enjoy a romantic Valentine cruise while helping the Aberdeen Lions Club raise funds for their community service activities.

For information, call Lions club members Joyce or Ron Landbeck, 410-272-5649. For reservations, call Accent-on-Travel, 1-800-848-3273. Prices range from \$1,269 to \$1,743 depending on cabin location. Final payment is due immediately.

MOVIES

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3, CHILDREN \$1.50
Building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard

THE LAST CASTLE

Friday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.
Starring: Robert Redford, James Gandolfini



A three-star general wrongly court-martialed and sentenced to a military maximum security prison rallies the 1,200 inmates to revolt against the corrupt warden and his guards. (Rated R)

13 GHOSTS (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.
Starring: Tony Shalhoub, Sannon Elizabeth



When Dr. Zorba dies, he leaves his house to his nephew, who moves in with his daughter. With the house come 13 ghosts. There's a fortune hidden somewhere in the house and someone wants it. (Rated R)



FROM HELL

Saturday, Dec. 8, 9 p.m.
Starring: Johnny Depp, Heather Graham

Mary Kelly, Kate Eddowes, Liz Stride, Dark Annie Chapman and Polly exist on the brink, earning a meager

living with their bodies in a society that concurrently dishonors and feeds upon them. Owning virtually nothing of value, their ranks are terrorized by a gruesome murderer. (Rated R)

LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

The Garrison Library has books for your reading and cooking pleasure for the holidays. Come by and check them out.

The Flavors of Bon Appetit 2001

The All New Good Housekeeping Cookbook
edited by Susan Westmoreland

The Best Pressure Cooker Recipes by Cinda Chavich

Menus for Entertaining by Hallie Donnelly



In the Kitchen with Heloise
by Heloise

Complete Fish & Game Cookbook by A.D. Livingston

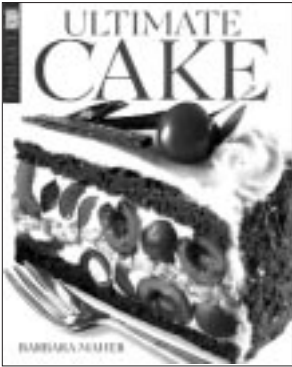
Cooking Time is Family Time
by Lynn Fredericks

Moosewood Restaurant Daily Special by The Moosewood Collective

The Perfect Pie by Susan G. Purdy

Retro Desserts by Wayne Harley Brachman

Ultimate Cake by Barbara Maher



LEAVE DONATION

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program are:

Fay Walker Banker (hip replacement)
Marian Bellis (fracture of left tibia)
Bonnie Bromley (liver transplant)
Daniel Brown (father has emphysema)
Tammy Budkey
Jane E. Calahan (surgery)
Nancy Coleman-Jones (surgery)
Tracy H Coliano-Hirsch (maternity)
Geraldine S. Cragg
Dawn M. Crouse (surgery)
Rene de Pontbriand
Tricia Lin Dietz
Fred Dill
Joseph R. Dugan
Messina Enderlein
Wayne Erb (wife is ill)
Denise M. Fox (maternity leave)
Susan G. Grendahl (maternity)
Michael L. Hitchcock (surgery)
Melanie A. Hoffman (parasinusitis, fibromyalgia condition)
John C. Houck
Stephen Howard (bone marrow transplant)
Wayne A. Jaynes
Evelyn K. Johnson (surgery)

Marlin Julian (heart surgery)
Mary B. Kane (surgery on leg)
Jennifer Keetley (maternity)
Beverly King (caring for husband)
William Klein
Nicole L. Klein (broken ankle)
Yvonne Lissimore (knee surgery)
Angela R. Little (neck and shoulder injury)
Edna L. Lobodzinski (eye surgery)
William B. McLean (kidney failure)
Rebecca G. Mercer-Leto (heart attack)
Stacy Miller (maternity)
Sandra W. Miller (back surgery)
John E. Mogan (surgery)
Vincent L. Mohr (knee replacement)
Shirley A. Murphy (terminal illness)
Cecil Pennington (surgery)
Suaquita R Perry (maternity leave)
Debi L. Petosky (back surgery)
Karen S Pense
Mary E. Pettitway
Barbara Carol Remines (surgery)

Angela L. Reeves (maternity leave)
Michael Reynolds
Boyd J. Richards (care of mother)
Denise Robinson (maternity)
Ricky Ross (heart attack)
Tami C. Rowland (maternity)
Allan Scarborough (back surgery)
Sherry Schaffer
Lena Shelton
Motoko Stahl
Debra S. Stark (surgery)
Rachel Swearingen
Alison Tichenor (surgery)
Sandra M. Wachter (surgery)
Rosalind Walters-Kenion (maternity)
Cecelia Walton (respiratory problems)
Michael R. Willard
Charles Young (kidney and pancreas transplant)
Andrew M. Vaught (brain tumor removed)
Wanda L. Waldon (surgery)
Josephine O. Wojciechowski (care for elderly parents)

OC&S LIBRARY

The OC&S Library has a bulletin board book display in honor of Native-American Month.

The Ordnance Center and Schools Library is located in the basement of building 3071. Hours are Monday and Thursday, noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, noon to 7 p.m., and Friday, noon to 4 p.m.

Gift Wrap Schedule

December

Thursday 6 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
16th Ordnance Battalion
Family Support Group
1st Sgt. James Branson,
410-278-5405

Friday 7 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Royce Williams PTA
Sam Real, 410-444-6200

Saturday 8 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
AA/EA Youth Services Teens
Angela Shannon, 410-278-4995

Sunday 9 – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory, Family Readiness Group
Marcie Perez, 410-676-6994

Monday 10 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
U.S. Army Research Laboratory
Dottie Kirk, 410-278-9233/5807

Tuesday 11 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic
Family Support Group
Joyce Steininger, 410-278-1801

Wednesday 12 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Warrant Officer Association
CW4 Pete Hill, 410-278-4979

Thursday 13 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory, Family Support Group
Marcie Perez, 410-676-6994

Friday 14 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (AIT)
Warrant Officer Association
CW4 Pete Hill, 410-278-4979

Saturday 15 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory, Soldier Support
Sgt. 1st Class Jesus Perez,
410-436-7147

Sunday 16 – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic
NCO Fellowship
Staff Sgt. George Torbert,
410-278-1765

Monday 17 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Edgewood Elementary PTA
Billie Brantley, 410-676-6045

Tuesday 18 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Protestant Women of the Chapel

Nancy Brugh, 410-272-1098

Wednesday 19 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
389th Army Band (AMC's Own)
Staff Sgt. Kay Reynolds,
410-278-8769

Thursday 20 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory, Soldier Support
Sgt. 1st Class Jesus Perez,
410-436-7147

Friday 21 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic
Family Support Group
Joyce Steininger, 410-278-1801

Saturday 22 – 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory, Family Support Group
Marcie Perez, 410-676-6994

Sunday 23 – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
FCC Parent Advisory Board
Ellen DiCuirci, 410-272-5349

Monday 24 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
203rd MI Family Support Group
Darlene Wayland, 410-278-7825

**For information about donating annual leave,
call Dave Mial at 410-278-1524 or fax 410-278-7877.**

Korea — 50 years ago Nov 1-30, 1951

Jim Caldwell
Army News Service

(TRADOC News Service Nov. 1-7, 1951) - DMZ issue still holds up peace negotiations. U.N. forces were dug in along Line Kansas as negotiations with North Korea continued over an acceptable demarcation line. Communist negotiators have submitted their map of where the demarcation line should be as their best and last proposal. Gen. Matthew Ridgway, commander of the U.N. Command, doesn't like it, but leaders in Washington tell him that the most important thing is that as long as Line Kansas is located along defensible positions some adjustments to the DMZ would be acceptable.

On Nov. 2, Ridgway orders his negotiation team to concede to the point that the line moves enough to place Kaesong in the DMZ. If that fails, they will concede the city. At the end of the day on Nov. 4, Ridgway and U.N. chief negotiator, Adm. C. Turner Joy, agree that accepting the communists' map, with a few adjustments is the best they can do. But the U.N. side will not relent easily.

On Nov. 5, Maj. Gen. Henry Hodes advances a plan with a four-kilometer DMZ along the battle line that exists "with appropriate adjustments" when the armistice is signed.

The communists, when they find out the U.N. negotiators leave Kaesong in the DMZ, flatly turn down the plan. Maj. Gen. Lee Sang Cho said no other items would be discussed until the military demarcation is fixed. Joy tells political and military leaders in Washington that he thinks the U.N. should resist allowing the communists make their demarcation line a permanent one. They tell Ridgway that a time limit should be set for completion of the entire agenda.

At Eighth Army headquarters, commanding Gen. James Van Fleet awaits word as to whether Ridgway approved Operation Sundial and an advance to Line Duluth. He asks for Ridgway's decision but never receives a reply. He still hasn't heard by Nov. 7. With U.N. and communist armies dug in, military action is limited to patrols and localized attacks.

Nov. 5 - The N.Y. Times reports that total U.S. aircraft losses in Korea is 1,203 - 536 to the enemy, 667 from accidents. There were 324 enemy planes destroyed according to claims by Air Force and Navy pilots. The figures are based on Air Force reports as of Oct. 23 and Navy reports as of Oct. 1.

Nov. 6 - Canada announces its armed forces have suffered 433 casualties, of which 88 are dead.

Nov. 7 - U.S. casualties in the war amount to 97,514, including 16,480 dead, the Defense Department announces.

Nov. 8 to 14, 1951 - Offensive limited to small-unit actions.

When Operation Sundial was postponed in Korea 50 years ago this week, offensive action was limited to small-unit attacks and patrolling the front lines.

Nov. 11 - U.N. commander Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway cancels plans that Eighth Army commander Gen. James Van Fleet had created for an offensive move to a line named Duluth, south of Pyongyang. That automatically kills Operation Sundial, which called for ROK I Corps to advance to Wonsan on the east coast. After attaining their objectives, IX Corps and

the ROK I Corps were to link up and trap North Korea units between them and Line Kansas. Nov. 12 - Ridgway tells Van Fleet to assume an "active defense." Van Fleet will be allowed to take terrain that enhances the defense lines, but can't commit more than a division to any single action.

He can also attack to retake ground lost to communist actions. At the same time, he must take advantage of conditions that will inflict the most casualties on the enemy. After the Nov. 8 meeting of the subcommittees of the truce talks teams, Ridgway talks again to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The demarcation line the communists propose does not take into consideration the Eighth Army gains since July. If he has to give them Kaesong, Ridgway wants to stand fast on the principle that the line of contact that exists when the armistice becomes effective is the actual line of demarcation. The JCS disagree and tell Ridgway that the U.N. negotiators can push to delay selecting the line of demarcation, but the communists have made great concessions even to move to the line they now identify. If the U.N. vetoes the reds' proposed line, they may revert to their original bargaining point, the 38th Parallel.

Nov. 12 - Sen. William F. Knowland, Calif., demands the United States take action against China for extorting money from Chinese-Americans across the nation.

Nov. 14 - In a subcommittee meeting, Gen. Lee Sang Cho, North Korea, agrees that settling on the demarcation line now is a de facto cease-fire.

Gen. Henry Hodes criticizes the reasoning for that. The talks turn bitter. Chinese Maj. Gen. Hsieh Fang twice challenges the U.N. to agree to a cease-fire immediately and settle the issues of peace enforcement, prisoners and other items later. Then Hsieh gets upset and calls Hodes "turtle egg," a great insult in the Chinese language.

When talking about Adm. Turner Joy, chief U.N. negotiator, Hsieh refers to him as "the senior delegate of your delegation, whose name I forgot." The U.N. team ignores the insults, but the talks are deadlocked.

Nov. 14 - U.S. casualties for the week ending Nov. 9 total 99,226 with 16,805 dead. A report from Formosa claims that communist China has about 1,000 Soviet-built planes of its own and more than 800 Russian pilots are flying others in China.

Nov. 15 to 21, 1951 - Peace talks agree on line, Reds accused of killing U.S. prisoners. U.S. and communist peace negotiators in Korea finally agreed on a cease-fire line, but at the same time the Eighth Army advocate general released a report claiming that the communists killed 5,500 captured Americans.

Nov. 15 to 17 - The Joint Chiefs of Staff order Ridgway to accept the communists' version of the demarcation line. Even though it does not reflect the line of contact that currently exists, it still leaves troops on the Kansas line from west central Korea to the east coast and the Wyoming line in the west in good defensive positions. Ridgway was told to place a one-

month time limit for settling the remaining issues on the agenda and to maintain pressure on the enemy but not undertake offensives that will appreciably change the existing line for the next month. However, there are no restrictions on the use of air and naval power. The U.N. delegates on the subcommittee are not going to concede to the communists' position right away. Hodes answers Hsieh's challenge to agree to a cease-fire or end the talks, saying the "U.N. cannot and will not cease military action until a complete military armistice agreement is reached." On Nov. 17, the U.N. sub-delegates agree to the communists' demarcation line, but add the requirement that all other agenda items be completed within 30 days.

The communists study the proposal and question Hodes and Adm. Arleigh Burke. They want to make sure the line of demarcation will not change until after the 30-day period. On the front, men are still being wounded and dying in extremely limited actions.

Nov. 16 - The Army Surgeon General's office reports that for every 1,000 wounded soldiers in Korea 25 die, but 804 are returned to duty, 685 within the Far East Command. In World War II, 45 died out of every 1,000 wounded, 750 returned to duty and 205 received disability discharges.

Nov. 17 - New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey claims in Albany, "We are now in World War III on a vast scale - the worst kind of propaganda, insurrectionist, treasonable war, and the question is will it turn into total, atomic war?"

He said talk of disarmament is a waste of time and the only way the U.S. will be secure is to have such "great strength" that the Soviet Union would not dare oppose it.

Nov. 20 - Ridgway says there is confirmation that communists killed 365 Americans. Their bodies were recovered on the battlefield. But just as he did Nov. 17, Ridgway condemns Col. James M. Hanley, Eighth Army judge advocate, for releasing a report claiming that the reds have killed 5,500 captured Americans. While expressing sympathy for the families of the slain soldiers, Ridgway also says, "It may well be that in no other way [than the shock of Hanley's charges] could all lingering doubts be dispelled ... as to the methods the leaders of communism ... use in their efforts to destroy free peoples."

Chinese Radio on Nov. 17 calls Hanley's report "a baseless and shameless fabrication" designed to delay the peace talks

Nov. 21 - The Department of Defense reports the number of Americans killed in Korea as of Nov. 16 totals 16,972. The break-out of the rest of American losses is 10,871 missing, 174 captured and 70,768 wounded. The U.S. estimates that through Nov. 6, the Chinese and North Koreans have suffered a combined 1,457,466 casualties.

Nov. 22 to 28, 1951 - Fight for Li'l Gibraltar follows icy holiday.

Nov. 22 - President and Mrs. Truman celebrate Thanksgiving at Key West Naval Station. He leads the nation in giving thanks "to the giver of our bounties." Vice President Alben W. Barkley spends Thanksgiving with frontline

troops in Korea. The Far East Air Force announces B-29s destroyed a MiG base at Uiju near the Yalu River. The aircraft used radar to pinpoint the bomb-drop because of bad weather.

Nov. 23 - The subcommittee of the U.N. peace negotiating team accepts the communists' demand to establish the demarcation line along the current line of contact. On Nov. 23 they begin locating that line.

Nov. 24 to 25 - GIs fighting in snow and near-zero temperatures Nov. 24-25 retake "Little Gibraltar," a 1,000-foot hill near Yonchon.

The reds had wanted the hill on their side of the demarcation line, and had regained it on Nov. 3. Little Gibraltar ends up on the U.N. side of the line.

Secretary of State Dean Acheson tells the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Rome on Nov. 24 that the U.S. will not agree to any settlement that weakens U.N. defense of South Korea.

Nov. 27 - At Panmunjom, the subcommittee agrees on the demarcation line.

The next item on the agenda, the Military Armistice Commission, has been under discussion among the allies for some time. When the main delegates reconvene at Panmunjom Nov. 27, Air Force Maj. Gen. Howard M. Turner, who recently commanded 13th Air Force in the Philippines, joins the U.N. team. North Korean Lt. Gen. Nam Il, the communists' chief delegate, submits five principles that will easily settle Item 3.

He says, "They are: 1 - fighting stops the day the armistice is signed; 2 - within three days all armed forces withdraw from DMZ; 3 - within five days all armed forces be out of rear areas; 4 - both sides agree to no more military action in the DMZ; 5 - both sides have teams of equal numbers to enforce the agreement."

Adm. C. Turner Joy laid out the U.N.'s seven-point formula, which expands the enemy's five points. Among them is both sides will limit troops and weapons to what is already in place. Also, joint observer teams will be able to roam freely around Korea to prevent military build-ups for a new war.

Nov. 28 - The communists respond. Foreign armies should be out of Korea completely, let alone given the run of their country.

Observers are "entirely unnecessary" because the peace agreement will prevent such build-ups, and there will be no need for inspections. The question of foreign troops is for politicians to handle, Joy tells him. Their five points are inadequate. Inspections to prevent force build-up have to be part of any agreement the U.N. will accept.

Also, on Nov. 28, Acheson and British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden agree that a strong inspection system is needed to prevent another North Korean attack.

After the demarcation line is agreed upon Nov. 27, Gen. James Van Fleet instructs all of his commanders that the only offensive actions allowed are "to regain key terrain lost to enemy assault." Van Fleet's order essentially results in a cease-fire, if the communists decide to stop fighting. This week's American casualty list stands at 100,883, with 17,153 dead.



Photos courtesy WWW.ARMY.MIL
Rations are sent uphill on a tramway to members of the 24th Infantry Division, Nov. 20, 1951.



A National Archives photograph shows GIs shoveling snow during the 1951-52 winter in Korea.

This Chinese photo shows and air-ground assault by the Communist Chinese Force on an island off the coast of Korea. Republic of Korea forces defended the islands.





Photos by YVONNE JOHNSON
A crowd watches as giant cranes loom over the ongoing recovery efforts at the World Trade Center site.



Doenee Moscoto, center, Civilian Welfare Fund chairperson, poses in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral on 5th Avenue with CWF coordinators Jacqueline McKeever, left, and Angela Keithley, right.



Flowers and a British flag with the message, "United We Stand" written on it sit outside St. Paul's Chapel.



Lauren Gilken signs the condolence wall near ground zero.



The shredded façade of what remains of one of the World Trade Center towers stands erect amidst the rubble of ground zero.



Flowers and hats are just a few of the mementos left in front of St. Paul's Chapel to honor the victims and rescuers of Sept. 11.



From left, Jacqueline McKeever, Joanne Piedra and Lauren Gilken get ready to attend the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall.

CWF

From front page

choose from, many passengers said their day was completely planned.

Ed and Rose Pope of Bel Air, traveling with their daughter Renee, 16 and three relatives from Bowleys Quarters, said they were headed to Rockefeller Center and FAO Schwarz.

"This is our first trip with the CWF," Rose Pope said, adding that they were looking forward to showing their support for the city that is still recovering from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Joanne Piedra, a caregiver with APG's Child Development Center, said she has taken numerous trips with CWF which "are always reliable and fun."

"Skiing, shopping or touring, I always have a good time," Piedra said.

A native of Brooklyn, Piedra said she planned to visit Ground Zero, the site of the Sept. 11 devastation, to "see it for myself."

The buses descended into Manhattan amidst a morning fog that obscured the famous skyline from view. After passing through the Lincoln Tunnel, passengers were dropped off along Fifth Avenue at Central Park, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Empire State Building, then back to Times Square.

The Radio City spectacular featured the Rockettes, the famous dance troupe that is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The show opened with a 3-D sleigh ride film in which members of the audience, donning 3-D glasses, followed Santa's sleigh as it flew through the streets of Manhattan, and dodged falling gift boxes

and snowballs that seemed to jump out of the screen and hover over their heads.

Santa, played by Charles Edward Hall, entered through a side door while the Rockettes, splendid in green velvet dresses and white fur hats, danced their way onto the stage and into onlookers' hearts.

Several creative scenes followed, including a charming dance number involving a little girl and her toys led by Collette Chan, a "Santa's Gonna Rock and Roll" dance performed by about 200 Santa Clauses, and a "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" in which the Rockettes, as Santa's favorite toys, perform a methodical domino-like collapse.

Keithley and McKeever led a group of seven that included Doenee Moscoto, a biological scientist with the U.S. Army Environmental Center and CWF chair; Susan Grill a test manager with the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command and her husband Don Otwell, Lauren Gilken, a CDC care provider and Piedra.

Be it curiosity or compulsion, just about everyone was drawn to Ground Zero. The group caught the subway to the financial district and walked from there. With their first look at the gigantic mounds of rubble, most were stunned into silence, mindful of the more than 3,000 souls buried beneath it.

Uniformed police officers managed the huge crowd, shepherding them briskly past the entrance so others could see. On the fence in front of St. Paul's Chapel, which borders the entrance to the off-limits area, were hundreds of mementos and flowers and tarps bearing written condolences and signatures.

A church volunteer, who would only identify himself as Herb, said that the tarps are removed throughout the day and replaced with fresh ones for the thousands

of visitors who wish to leave their sentiments.

"They're hung inside for the recovery workers to see," he said. "They draw comfort from them."

Officer Mike McCarthy of Manhattan's 69th Precinct was one of several dozen officers guarding the site. McCarthy said two 12-hour shifts are used to maintain security 24 hours a day.

Pointing behind him to the wall of what remained of the South Tower and Building Five, he said everyone leaving the site must shower due to all the dust and decay.

"They even have to wash the vehicles," he added pointing to a High Mobility Mutli-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle, or HMMWV, belonging to the New York National Guard drying off nearby.

Everyone in the group took turns signing the wall and taking photos, then visited several of the numerous vendors selling souvenirs along the sidewalks. Post cards depicting the Trade Center towers were in high demand.

"It was an overwhelming experience," Keithley said as the group departed the area. "Seeing it up close really brings the tragedy home."

Though the sight saddened them, all agreed they were glad they came.

"Everyone should try to come here," McKeever said. "It makes you appreciate all our country is going through and why."

The CWF offers excursions throughout the year. Upcoming trips include a ski trip to Somerset, Pa., March 1 to 3 and a weeklong trip to Ireland, also in March. For more information about CWF activities, contact McKeever or Keithly at 410-278-3520/4603.



Photos by JACQUE MILLER

Aberdeen Proving Ground soldiers and the children and staff of Aberdeen's Roye-Williams Elementary School participated in a ceremony dedicated to celebrating the spirit of patriotism and remembering those lost in the Sept. 11 terrorist action. During the fall assembly at Roye-Williams Elementary School in Aberdeen, students wave U.S. flags made by third graders, while some wore patriotic headgear designed by second graders. Each grade at the school supported the outdoor event, wearing patriotic colors, dressing as historic figures or symbols, or coming as their favorite soldier, sailor, Marine or airman.

Patriots

From front page

children reach out to the children of Afghanistan, many of whom have been so affected by the terrorists living in their country that they have access to very little.

"Helping other children seemed like a great way to channel their energy into something positive," Miller said.

Sue Osborn, principal at Roye-Williams, said that when collecting money to send to Afghan children was suggested, the children enthusiastically contributed. While collecting funds to send overseas, a local company contacted the school, offering a tree.

"We decided that planting a

tree in memory of those who died was a great idea," Osborn said. "A tree is a living thing and would symbolize that although something terrible occurred, we will grow again."

The school held an outdoor ceremony earlier this fall, one in which the students dressed in patriotic costumes or wore the nation's colors of red, white and blue, symbolically planted the tree, and found out their contributions totaled \$407.23.

Jacobs came to school to congratulate and thank the young patriots.

"You love your country and have answered the call of the president to help the children of Afghanistan," she said. "Thank you for giving so very, very much."

Much of what the children contributed came from their allowances and savings. One

student, Daniel Rodriguez, attends afternoon kindergarten at the school. Daniel, who lives on the installation, was recognized for contributing half of what he had saved in his piggy bank. The five year-old shied away from being singled out, saying he could have bought a toy with the money, but that now it will go to children who have less.

The children sang their school song at the November assembly.

The song includes the line "Let me serve as those who serve to maintain liberty."

The school principal is not alone in thinking many Roye-Williams students not only know the words, but are applying them, as well.

"This is a great school with a great group of children," Osborn said. "We are all helping to defend freedom."



Dressed as a young soldier, Anthony Coltson, left, watches as Natalie Rymarz adds another touch of red, white and blue to the tree dedicated to the memory of the lives lost in the terrorist events of Sept. 11. The tree was donated to the school by Home Depot.

Top of the Bay dresses for the holidays

Photos by YVONNE JOHNSON



Above, from left, sisters Fay and Felisha Christy, Top of the Bay employees, enjoy the Christmas tree decorating the main foyer. Volunteers from the Military and Civilian Spouses Club decorated the building for the holidays. "They did a good job, Fay Christy said, adding that guests at a weekend wedding were pleasantly surprised by the decorations. "Customers appreciate the festive look," she said.

Aberdeen Youth Services December Schedule of Events

Fun for all ages is the best way to describe Aberdeen Youth Services. For more information about what's available, e-mail, call 410-278-4995 or visit us in building 2522, Bayside Drive (beside the Shoppette).

Congratulations to this Aberdeen Youth Services' Youth of the Quarter, Brandon Beverley, and to our Youth of the Year, Heidi Greenleaf.

Open Recreation Program

Every Tuesday night is Cooking Club. December will feature Caribbean, Spanish, and German dishes. This is a wonderful way for youth to learn basic cooking skills. POC: Angie Shannon

Wednesday night is Craft Night. Call us to find out what projects we're working on in December. POC: Angie Shannon

Friday night at 6 p.m. is Movie Night. Call for the movie schedule.

SMART Girls Club - for girls, ages 10 to 15 years - meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Curriculum discussion and activities geared toward improving self-esteem, health and nutrition. POC is Tonya Turner.

Torch Club - for boys and girls, ages 11 to 13. Meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m. This leadership club is designed to empower each member to develop a sense of responsibility and appreciation for citizenship and leadership. POC is Lonnell Dixon.

TEENSUPREME Keystone Club - for boys and girls, ages

14 to 18 - meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. The TEENSUPREME Keystone Club continues where the Torch Club leaves off, giving members even more responsibility and leadership opportunities. POC is Angie Shannon.

Happy Holidays!

Due to the holiday schedule, there will be no driver's education classes in December. However, teens can register for the next class scheduled for Jan. 8. POC is Chrissy Keithley.

The SMART Girls and Torch Clubs present the You Snooze You Lose Lock-In for boys and girls, ages 10 to 15. The doors lock, and the real excitement begins at 10 p.m. and does not stop until 8 a.m. Admission is \$3 per person. The snack bar will be open. There will be movies, games, tournaments, and lots more. And remember - YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE. POC is Tonya Turner.

3-On-3 All-Net Basketball Tournament is scheduled for Dec. 15, 3:30 p.m. Entry deadline is Dec. 12. Age groups - 9/10, 11/12, 13/14, and 15/18 (18-year-old graduates are not eligible to participate.) All players must be current members of the Aberdeen or Edgewood Youth centers. POC is Lonnell Dixon.

Visit the Computer Lab. In addition to having lots of great games, the computer lab offers a variety of educational software and access to the Internet.

Computer Class of the Month features Microsoft Word for -

5, 6 p.m.

Middle School - Dec. 12, 6 p.m.

High School - Dec. 19, 6 p.m. POC is Charles Novak.

Tickets are on sale now for Aberdeen Youth Services Holiday Dance, Dec. 21, sponsored by the SMART Girls, Torch, and TEENSUPREME Keystone Clubs. This function is two events in one - a Elementary/Middle School Dance and a High School Dance.

Buy now and save. Elementary/Middle School Dance from 6 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$2 in advance, \$4 at the door.

High School Dance from 8 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$4 in advance, \$6 at the door.

Have friends who want to come to the dance but don't have a military ID card? Call Angie Shannon before Dec. 17, 410-306-4507, and ask about the Special Events Roster.

Sports & Fitness Program

Instructional Classes - Dance, Gymnastics, & Karate. Ask about the Winter Gymnastics session. Another karate session is coming soon. POC is Bill Kegley at 410-306-2297.

Team Sports - Basketball and Cheerleading practices began in November. Games begin in January!!

For what's going on with Youth Sports at APG, call Bill Kegley, 410-306-2297.

Islam 101

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to many that Islam is the world's second-largest religion after Christianity, with approximately 1.2 billion followers.

Followers of the religion Islam are called Muslims. Although many believe that most Muslims come from the Middle East, in truth only 20 percent of the world's Muslims live there. Most reside in Indonesia, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, and it is estimated six million Muslims call America home.

To begin his historical review of Islam, McNally told the group that at age 40 Mohammed had the revelation from God that there is only one God. He then went on to explain about the "Qur'an", the holy book of Islam, and that it was based entirely on recitations, not the written word of Mohammed.

After tracing the growth of Islam including the Ottoman conquest of the Muslim Empire, he moved to modern times and explained that for the vast majority of Muslims, "jihad" means to be at war with modern technology and culture. However, he stressed that our modern culture, absent violence and oppression, can win the hearts and minds of the Muslim people by its very nature. To support this contention, he cited changes currently taking place in Iran and Afghanistan.

According to McNally, as long as we are vigilant and understand the nature of the conflict, victory is assured.

Regina Iser, Programs and Budget Division, summed up the thoughts of many in the DRM when she said, "the presenter was so interesting that I was left wanting more. It broadened our consideration of others from our own little working group to a global aspect."